



CITY OF ENCINITAS

Media Alert

For Immediate Release

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Encinitas seeks nominations for its 2020 Environmental Award Program

Deadline for Nominations: Saturday, October 31, 2020 by 12:00 midnight

The City of Encinitas Environmental Commission is proud to announce the opening of nominations for its prestigious Environmental Award Program (EAP), now in its sixth year. The EAP seeks to recognize deserving individuals, businesses, and non-profits for their commitment to environmental stewardship and outstanding environmental achievements in the city. Two **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship** awards have been historically granted to a for-profit business and a non-profit business each year since the program's founding in 2014 by Environmental Commissioners Jim Wang and Joy Lyndes. In 2019, under the leadership of Environmental Commissioners Christian Adams and Inge Bisconer, a new **Environmental Hero** category was added to recognize both an adult and a youth who are not necessarily affiliated with a business.

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2020 award program is Saturday, October 31st by 12:00 midnight.

The winners of the 2019 program were again presented beautiful awards made of recycled glass. The Environmental Hero Awards were presented at the Surfing Madonna Beach Run on Oct 26, 2019 by deputy Mayor Jody Hubbard, and the Excellence in Environmental Stewardship awards were presented by Mayor Catherine Blakespear at the August 12, 2020 City Council Meeting.

The winner of the **Environmental Hero Award, Youth** (under 18) category was **Elizabeth Hazard**, an Encinitas native and 11th-grade honors student at San Dieguito Academy who is making headlines in her work for a more natural world. Working with the Nature Collective and in school, she is a recognized leader in native plant conservation and gardening. She created her school's California Native Plant Club which has secured back-to-back First Place Awards in the San Diego County Fair Ecke Jr. Garden Shows.

The winner of the **Environmental Hero Award, Adult** category was **Nita Gilson**, founder of CropSwap and ProduceGood, located at The Hive at the Leichtag Commons. The organization's volunteers gather unwanted fruit and vegetables from farms and backyards and connects this otherwise wasted food with the needy. Since its inception, ProduceGood has recovered over 165 tons of produce, providing over one million meals for the hungry.

The winner of the **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship, Non-profit Award** category was the **Encinitas Ranch Community Association** for its work to create one of the county's largest recycled water projects (13.7 million gallons of water per year), for upgrading their irrigation system to state of the art automation and sensor technology, and for working with their landscape contractor to convert to battery powered landscape maintenance equipment. Richard P Stern, President, Encinitas Ranch Community Association, accepted the award.

The winner of the **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship For-profit Business Award** category is the **Inn at Moonlight Beach**, the first hotel in the world to receive the prestigious WELL Certification at the Platinum (highest) level. The Inn filters the air and water to its highest levels, the materials are reused and sustainable, a biodynamic urban farm generates its own compost and provides guests local foods, and the site has been remediated and the soil amended to prevent stormwater runoff and soil erosion. Shangwen Kennedy, the Owner of The Inn at Moonlight Beach, accepted the award.

Encinitas' Environmental Award Program is the first award of its kind in San Diego County and is one of few in the United States. For more information about the history and past winners of the award program: [Environmental Award Program History and Past Winners](#)

To nominate a person or a business, click here:

[2020 Encinitas Environmental Award Program Nomination Form](#)

Nominations are open until midnight Saturday, October 31, 2020

Deputy Mayor, Jody Hubbard with Elizabeth Hazard and Nita Gilson,
the 2019 Environmental Hero Award Winners



From the left: Hazard, Hubbard, Gilson

Photo taken by Hazard Family

Screen shot of the August 12, 2020 Encinitas City Council Meeting where the **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship For-profit Business Award** and the **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Non-profit Award** were presented by Mayor Catherine Blakespear and Deputy Mayor Kelly Shay-Hinze.



Dick Stern accepting the award prior to the Zoom meeting on behalf of the **Encinitas Ranch Community Association**, winner of the **Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Non-profit Award**.



Council Member Jody Hubbard with the Environmental Award Program Subcommittee and the 2019 Environmental Hero Award Winners

From the left: Environmental Commissioner Christian Adams, Youth Hero Elizabeth Hazard, Council Member Jody Hubbard, Adult Hero Nita Gilson, and Environmental Commissioner Inge Bisconer



Photo taken by Hazard Family